MATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign films/documentaries purchased by India during the year 1984 and the month ending July, 1985;

(b) the names of countries which sold these films/documentaries with expenditure; and

(c) the number of Indian films sold during the same period, and the value of earning from Indian films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) to (c) Documentaries can be imported and exported by any person in India under Open General Licence (OGL). The information about their import and export is not, therefore, available with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. As regards feature films, 23 and 11 foreign films were purchased by India (the National Film Development Corporation and private Indian parties) during, the calendar year, 1984 and the mon^h of July, 1985. respectively. These figures do not include the foreign films imported by the Motion Pictures Export Association of America (MPEAA) Group of Companies, Sovexportfilm and Non-Resident Indians.

The above-mentioned films were purchased from USA, UK, France, China, Italy. Poland. West Germany, Kenya and Libya. The total expenditure incurred on the purchase of these films during the calendar year, 1984 and July, 1985 was US $ 4.94,635.

During the calendar year 1984 and the month of July, 1985, 574 films for a value of Rs. 759.89 lakhs, and 59 films for a value of Rs. 34.09 lakhs, respectively were sold in foreign countries. During these periods, video rights in respect of 160 films for a value of Rs. 158.45 lakhs and 15 films for a value of Rs. 6.43 lakhs, respectively were also sold.

Bidi industry

2834. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether bidi workers and bidi industry have been declared as casual and second grade industry respecti vely;

(b) whether various Minimum Wages Acts and Industries Regulation Acts are made applicable to this indu stry and workers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH); (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable to the Beedi Industry. The Beedi & Cigar workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 provides for the applicability of the following Acts to the Beedi industry:

1. Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Act, 1946.
2. Factories Act, 1948.
3. Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.
4. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and
5. Payment of Wages Act, 1836.

National Advisory Council of Labour Cooperatives

2835. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a council of labour coopera tives at the national level;

(b) if so, what is the likely com position, functions and the role to be played by the Council; and

(c) whether any provision to aid the council has been made in the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL OHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed National Advi sory Council of Labour Cooperatives may include representatives of Cen tral and State Governments, coopera tives and work awarding agencies. The Council will be an advisory body on matters relating to the promotion and strengthening of labour coopera tives .

(c) The Council will be an Ad visory Body and no aid to the Coun cil a_s such is envisaged. The Council will be serviced by the De partment of Agriculture and Coopera tion.

Availability of cheap controlled cloth to weaker sections of society

2836. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ; Will the Minister of FOOD' AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) what steps have been taken to urge the State Governments to ensure easy availability of cheap controlled cloth to the economically weaker sections of society; and

(b) what are the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Department of Civil Supplies has recently issued detailed guidelines to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations suggesting a plan of action for ensuring proper distribution of controlled cloth to common mass of, people both in rural and urban areas particularly those belonging to weaker sections of the society. They have been advised to streamline the system of distribution through proper monitoring of demand and supply of controlled cloth at the State and district level. On receipt of controlled cloth by the District Wholesale Agency, the Deputy Commissioner/Collector and District Supply Officer should immediately be informed of the receipt of total quantity received. The Deputy Commissioner/Collector should take the responsibility with the assistance of District Supply Officer and Deputy/ Assistant "Registrar of Cooperative Societies, to indicate the distribution of controlled cloth in urban and rural areas within his Jurisdiction. All Consumer Cooperative Stores as well as other agencies dealing with controlled cloth should display the stock position of controlled cloth received, sold etc. A system of physical verification of the stock held by each wholesaler/retailer should be introduced and the retailers should maintain a register showing arrival of stock, its quantity (variety-wise) etc. It ha_s also been suggested that the number of retail outlets of the controlled cloth both in urban and rural areas should be increased so as to provide proper facilities to the people for getting controlled cloth without any difficulty. The State Governments/ U.T. Administrations are taking neee£tsary steps to implement th_e suggestions .

2837. [Transferred *to the 22nd August.* 1985.]

Production of T.V. Serial 'Hum Log'

2838 SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it i_s a fact that the fee for the sponsored serial on Doordarshan 'Hum Log' has been raised from Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 1,50,000 and what is the share of Doordarshan a_s co-producers in the enhanced fee;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ',Hum Log" is produced in a studio owned by Swami Dhirendra Brahmchari;

(c) whether it i_s also a fact that a senior cameraman of Upgraha Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi was working